Stock of foodgrains with FCI

2366. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quality of wheat, rice and paddy stored in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India as in December, 2002;

(b) the amount spent annually on storage of foodgrains;and

(c) the quantity of foodgrains which becomes unfit for human consumption every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The stock of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) and wheat, in Central Pool, as on 1st January, 2003 was 193.72 lakh tonnes and 288.03 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) The total cost of storage of foodgrains during 2002-2003 (Revised Estimates) is Rs. 1370/- crores.

(c) The quantity varies from year to year depending upon weather conditions, unprecedented/inccessant rains, cyclones, floods, spillage and duration of storage.

Price of sugarcane

2367. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that while Supreme Court in their Order dated that the 31 st January, 2001 had upheld the agreed price of Rs. 95 per quintal of sugarcane and the Allahabad High Court subsequently granted a contrary order on 13th November, 2002 directing payment of much less (Rs. 64.50) Statutory Minimum probably, due to willful concealment of Supreme Court order by the vested interests, resulting in suicide by farmers; and

(b) whether so, who is responsible for this tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) On the basis of a counter-affidavit filed on behalf